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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 02480PC/JW	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Form PCT/IPEA/416	
International application No. PCT/SE 2003/001803	International filing date (day/month/year) 20.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 22.11.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C02F 1/32		
Applicant DOMETIC AB et al		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
 - a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
 - ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
 - ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
 - b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 17.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 04.01.2005
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/SE Patent- och registreringsverket Box 5055 S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 667 72 88	Authorized officer Jens Waltin/MP Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International Application No.

PCT/Se 2003/001803

Box No. I **Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International Application No.

PCT/Se 2003/001803

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-10</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Most relevant document cited in the International Search Report:

D1: WO 00/71227 A1

D1 discloses a user-activated domestic water treatment unit (refer to page 5, lines 1-2, page 8, line 10 - page 12, line 9 and fig. 1). The unit has an inlet (30), an outlet fixture (24), connections from inlet to outlet and water treatment equipment including an ultraviolet lamp (78). It also comprises a discharge valve in fluid connection with the outlet fixture (page 15, line 5), which valve is the closest correspondence to the flow regulator of the present invention.

According to D1, the UV lamp requires an electronic ballast to operate. An electrical switch is used for energizing the ballast, which switch can be either (refer to page 15, lines 8-14)

1. manually actuated
2. automatically actuated upon switching the water discharge valve open, or
3. automatically actuated by a flow sensor.

The apparatus disclosed in D1 operated according to the second alternative above is considered to be the most relevant prior art.

The invention according to claim 1 has three distinguishing features as compared to what is disclosed in D1:

.../...

Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V

1. the flow regulator is electrically controlled and connected to a voltage source via an electrical supply lead,
2. the automatic lighting up of the UV light source, is accomplished by means for detecting a supply current passing through the supply lead when the regulator is activated, and
3. the flow regulator is arranged upstream of the liquid purifier.

The claimed invention is thus novel.

An effect of feature 2 above is that a minimum of adaptations are required at installation of a liquid purifier into an already existing water supply system with an electrically controlled flow regulator. Feature 3 makes it possible to use only one electrically controlled flow regulator for the entire water supply system, even if the system comprises several branches with respective tapping points.

Although a person skilled in the art might consider using an electrically controlled discharge valve in D1, there are no detailed instructions in D1 on how to design the system for the automatic actuation of the UV lamp. But most important: there are no indications in the prior art that would make him modify the apparatus by arranging the discharge valve upstream of the liquid purifier.

Therefore, the invention according to claim 1 and claims dependent thereupon is considered to involve an inventive step.

The claimed invention is also considered to be industrially applicable.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 2003/001803

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: C02F 1/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: C02F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 0071227 A1 (LIFE SPRING LIMITED PARTNERSHIP), 30 November 2000 (30.11.2000), page 5, line 1 - line 2; page 8, line 10 - page 12, line 9; page 15, line 4 - line 14 --	1-10
A	US 4535247 A (MARK E. KURTZ), 13 August 1985 (13.08.1985), column 1, line 1 - line 44 -----	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.02.2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Swedish Patent Office

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

01/12/2003

International application No.

PCT/SE 2003/001803

WO	0071227	A1	30/11/2000	AU	5032700	A	12/12/2000
				US	6461520	B	08/10/2002
US	4535247	A	13/08/1985	CA	1208874	A	05/08/1986